



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PDC FINES LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEE **AND ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Mike Connelly, issued civil penalties during brief enforcement hearings held today in Olympia upon finding that a local political party committee and three elected officials violated state Public Disclosure laws.

Thurston County Republican Central Committee was found in violation of state law for failing to properly disclose an in-kind contribution given to Ann Burgman, a 2004 candidate for State Representative. TCRCC was fined \$250 with \$100 suspended for reporting payments totaling \$4,924.48 as an independent expenditure benefiting Burgman rather than a contribution. The payments were made to a political consultant for producing a mailer supporting Burgman. The consultant hired by TCRCC was simultaneously working for the Burgman campaign, which compromised his ability to work on independent expenditures benefiting Burgman.

In a separate hearing, Chairman Connelly found three local elected officials did not timely file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1). State law requires elected officials and certain state appointed officials to file an F-1 with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

Connelly stressed the importance of filing reports that disclose personal financial interests and holdings.

“These reports afford the public tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain,” Connelly said.

A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent during the first week of May 2005. On June 4, a second letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent.

Government officials from Thurston and Mason counties who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

Barbara Bodin, Commissioner for Mason Co. Fire Protection Dist. #6, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Calvin Dahl, Commissioner for Thurston Co. Fire Protection Dist. #1, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Laura Ware, City Council Member for the City of Olympia, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

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